

FINAL

**LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/live)
Thursday, August 13th, 2020
6:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ernst Oidtmann (Chair), Sarah Riley (Vice Chair), Erling Heistad, Bruce James, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy, Darla Bruno (Alt.), Barbara Hirai (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christopher Johnson, Suellen Balestra (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Goodwin (GIS Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Oidtmann called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

- Mr. Mark Goodwin reviewed the meeting procedures for remote meetings and NH RSA 91-A “Right to Know” requirements. A Roll Call of Commission Members who participated remotely are listed above.
- Chair Oidtmann appointed Barbara Hirai as a regular voting member in place of Christopher Johnson.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 9th, 2020

Ms. Almy MOVED to approve the July 9th, 2020 Minutes as presented in the August 13th, 2020 agenda packet.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Donald Lacey, Susan Almy, Bruce James, Barbara Hirai all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).*

3. PERMIT REVIEW: None

4. STUDY ITEMS:

C. Discussion-Conservation Lands and Covid-19:

Mr. Goodwin received an e-mail from a concerned citizen about the lack of social distancing on the trails in Lebanon, specifically out at Trues Brook. Mr. Goodwin printed out signs on Covid-19 and social distancing that will be put up on kiosks at the trails.

A. Conservation Commission Overview

- **Guiding Framework and Documents**

- **Wetland Review and Comment**
- **Timber Harvesting**
- **Development Review and Con. Com.**
- **Property Stewardship**

Mr. Goodwin went over the documents that are usually provided to new members of the Conservation Commission in a black ring binder. Discussion was had as to whether the paperwork will be put on the web and provided electronically or if members would prefer to receive them in paper form. The consensus was that the Committee members would like paper copies of most of the documents. Some members would be happy with both electronic access as well as paper copies.

Mr. Goodwin also went over the Wetland Review and asked for comments. Chair Oidtmann asked if it was possible to have a place on the building application that gives implied consent to allow the Conservation Commission to walk the land in question. Mr. Goodwin explained that it was a State of New Hampshire process where wetlands are concerned but he would reach out to the state to see if that is something that is already on their applications.

During the discussion on timber harvesting Chair Oidtmann commented that he thought the Conservation Commission should be made aware anytime a person applies to harvest timber on their property. Mr. Goodwin said that the City Assessor was aware that the Commission would like to know about that. Mr. Goodwin was waiting to hear back from the Assessor on this topic.

Under Development Review and the Conservation Commission Mr. Goodwin went over how some decisions as far as zoning have already been made. A Master Plan had been developed and is reviewed every 10 years for any updates. The last time the Master Plan was looked at was in 2010. Some down zoning and up zoning took place at that time. Mr. Goodwin explained what the Commission has been tasked with during a wetland review. Ms. Hirai suggested that a checklist be created to help guide the Commission members during the permit review process.

B. Rt. 120/Great Hollow Rd. Landscape Scale Planning

Mr. James gave a presentation to the Conservation Committee members on long term planning and broadening the Commission's perspective as far as future planning and land development. He explained that looking at the bigger picture, especially when making decisions on seemingly small wetland disturbances, could help the Conservation Commission make better decisions for the future of Lebanon. Discussion was had among the Commission members on the presentation.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Conservation Lands Monitors

Christian Marks sent a note to the Conservation Commission about planting Elm trees in the Two Rivers Conservation Area. This is being done by the Nature Conservancy out of Massachusetts. The gentleman is looking for 1 person from the Conservation Commission to show him where the Commission would like the trees to be planted. Vice Chair Riley is willing to help with the trees. Ms. Hirai will call Mr. Marks to see exactly what he would like the Conservation to do for him.

B. Lebanon Biodiversity Group

Mr. Lacey reported that August is the month to do follow-up treatment on the Japanese Knotweed projects that he has started. There is one at the vernal pool on the Ticknor property, one at Baker's Crossing and one at the Mill Parcel. He will be going in to retreat the re-sprouts at those places.

Ms. Hirai told about Buckthorn in Chamber's Park and mentioned there was quite a bit of Japanese Knotweed at Baker's Crossing. She also mentioned that Purple Loosestrife was in bloom and she has been out pulling a little bit of that. Mr. Heistad mentioned that there was a lot of Buckthorn on Ticknor Road as well.

C. Workshops & Educational Opportunities

Chair Oidtmann mentioned a trail clean-up happening on the Ticknor Trail on August 22, 2020 by the Rotary Club and the Conservation Commission. Big Hemlocks are still across the trail so they will be taken down.

Mr. Lacey mentioned that the tree that was down across the turnaround in the Lebanon Wildlife Management area down by where Trues Brook enters the Connecticut River, which is a New Hampshire Fish and Game property, has been removed. After he called Fish and Game they came and took care of the tree within 2 weeks.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Resident Stewardship Volunteer Program

Farnum Hill has several stewards of the trail and volunteers interested in helping. Ms. Hirai explained that the issue for volunteers is that there are no maps to help them sign up to work on specific trails. Mr. Ron Bailey is very anxious to have that done so that after storms and such he would be informed by the volunteers about what trails need maintenance instead of having to go out and look at them all himself.

Vice Chair Riley said she would be willing to work on a form that would allow volunteers to fill out information such as trail maintenance that may have been done or work that may need to be done. She is hoping that this form could be shared by all on the internet.

B. Web Page Update-None

C. Wild About Lebanon

Mr. Goodwin advised that Wild About Lebanon has not happened since Covid-19 started. The group contacted Mr. Goodwin and was looking to highlight 5 trails in a mail out to residents of Lebanon.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lacey MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 PM.

Seconded by Ms. Almy.

Roll Call Vote:

Ernst Oidtmann, Susan Almy, Erling Heistad, Sarah Riley, Barbara Hirai, Bruce James, Donald Lacey all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

** The Vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara R. Higgins
Recording Secretary